

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2801

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4555

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: DEVLIN MISSION TO MOBUTU

1. DEVLIN, SAYING IT WAS HIS NECK IF IT GOT OUT, TOLD ME TWO OTHER THINGS MOOUTU SAID, PRESUMABLY WITH REQUEST THEY NOT BE PASSED ON.

(A) PRESIDENT NYERER HAS OFFERED TROOPS TO ASSIST MOBUTU IN TRACKING DOWN AND DESTROYING KABILA GROUP. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD REFUSED AND WENT ON ABOUT HIS UNDERSTANDING PARENTS' CONCERN.

(B) MOBUTU SAID TWO OR THREE OF KEY PRP IN TANZANI HAD BEEN EXECUTED. DEVLIN DOES NOT KNOW IF PRESIDENT HAS NAMES OR IF INDIVIDUALS ARE IMPORTANT, MOBUTU SWITCHED RAPIDLY FROM POINT AND GAVE EVERY INDICATION THAT HE HAD MEANT TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT HOSTAGES.

(SINCE WE ALREADY KNEW SOMEONE KILLED "BEFORE INTERROGATION" AND THAT ONE OF TWELVE KEY INDIVIDUALS IS MISSING, WE CAN PURSUE SUBJECT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT'S REMARK WHICH, IF ACCURATE, CERTAINLY REDUCES NEGOTIATORS' POSSIBILITIES. WE CAN ALSO HOPE HE IS MISINFORMED).

2. DEVLIN DESCRIBED MOBUTU AS NOT ONLY PREOCCUPIED WITH ANGOLA BUT ALSO DEAD TIRED, BORED BY COLIN EGLUND, HIS SOUTH AFRICAN VISITOR, AND OVER-ALL FAR FROM HIS USUAL FORM.

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